

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES COLLABORATIVE COMMISSION
MEETING NOTES – NOVEMBER 12, 2014
CITY HALL, SISTER CITIES ROOM

ATTENDANCE

Present

Bill Campbell
Councilman John Chapman
William Chesley
Andria Cook
Rose Dawson
J. Glenn Hopkins

Kate Garvey
Stacey Joyner
Councilman Timothy Lovain
Gerald Mann
Sean McEneaney

Gwen Mullen
Sonia Price
Margaret Walsh
Eric Williams
Marc Williams

Excused Absent

Chanece Bigelow
Gisselle Brown
Rosario Casiano

Mike Mackey
Tammy Mann

Jeffrey Murphy
Joyce Rawlings

Guests

Debra Collins

Tiffany Gray

Staff

Carol Farrell
Barbara Farrington

Ron Frazier

Deborah Warren

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was opened by Chair Sean McEneaney with an acknowledgement of his gratitude for the expressions of sympathy he received after the passing of his father.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF DRAFT OCTOBER MEETING NOTES

Gwen Mullens recommended that wording be added to the October meeting notes clarifying the terms under which Book Buddies coordinators can access PALS test data. The minutes were amended to include the following phrase: “for students whose parents have signed consent forms for the release of that data”.

DISCUSSION OF CITY COUNCIL CONCERNS

Councilman John Chapman stated an item on the agenda of the last City Council meeting was prompted by council concerns regarding the composition of CYFCC; staff in leadership positions; the receipt of city funds by commissioners/agencies represented on the Finance Committee; its capacity to implement and monitor the Children & Youth Master plan. In addition, the completion of the Children & Youth Master Plan is seen by some as an opportunity to morph the commission into a smaller entity.

Councilman Chapman and Councilman Timothy Lovain attributed those concerns to an unfortunate lack of knowledge about how the commission operates. CYFCC does not give funds

in the same way as the former Early Childhood Commission and Youth Policy Commission. In addition, there are a limited number who can be tapped for leadership positions.

It was the position of Deputy City Manager Debra Collins that while these concerns are not shared by elected members of CYFCC, they were raised at the City Council retreat, the City Council School Board Subcommittee, and at the School Board. Bill Campbell advised that elected commissioners work closer with their colleagues; another perspective is that said colleagues have not reached out to the elected commissioners. Councilman Chapman has raised this issue with the Mayor. Chair-Elect Garvey asked if there was a precedent for this kind of “questioning”. Councilman Chapman recommended that an explanatory document be forwarded to City Council and the School Board. Rose Dawson advised that the results of the CYFCC survey be forwarded as well. Ms. Dawson also noted there is a perception of CYFCC that is negative. Margee Walsh attributed these issues to hypothetical concerns and asked what problem the dialogue is intended to address. According to Bill Campbell, the issue is CYFCC commissioners needing to do a better job of educating their colleagues. He asked that thirty minutes be set aside to do a SWOT analysis. The recommendation was accepted and the discussion scheduled for the December CYFCC meeting.

CSSG UPDATE ON CHILDREN & YOUTH MASTER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Deborah Collins and Margee Walsh updated commissioners on the status of the implementation of the Children & Youth Master Plan (CYMP). The City Manager deemed the CYMP one of the priority areas, but noted implementation will require more than City taxpayer dollars.

In recognition of the need to accelerate the pace of the development of the CYMP implementation plan, Goal Work Groups have been formed to build on the work of the strategy session of August 12. The City-Schools Staff Group (CSSG) is committed to submitting a draft implementation plan framework to CYFCC in January, which will include priorities and a phased approach over a five-year period. A Memorandum of Understanding is being developed to formalize ACT for Alexandria as the backbone for CYMP Strategy 2.2.1. ACT is also willing to serve as fiscal agent for grant opportunities outside the scope of the City/ACPS. The City will work through the FY 16 budget process to incorporate one or two high CYMP priorities.

PRESENTATION ON NEW YOUTH CAREER ACADEMY

The ribbon cutting ceremony for the newly established Youth Career Academy was held on November 5. Tiffany Gray, Employment Training Specialist with TeensWork, presented a PowerPoint on the services that are now available. The academy is located in the offices of JobLink and is open until 6 p.m. two days a week. The space is also available to youth clubs/groups and other organizations that foster entrepreneurship. In addition to ready access to computers, services include career preparation and career education activities led by industry leaders in various occupations.

Other new TeensWork initiatives include STEM related occupational training for Workforce Investment Act (WIA) participants that will commence in January 2015. Training courses will be facilitated by instructors from Northern Virginia Community College. A \$50,000 grant from Wells Fargo is funding an 8-week culinary arts program for 18 to 22 year-olds. TeensWork is also recruiting 20 young people for training in information technology.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Co-chairs Rose Dawson and Andria Cook presented the report of the Outreach and Membership Committee. At a committee meeting of October 21, the committee adopted an action plan that includes writing letters of support for CYFCC members, devising an orientation plan for new members, and developing a communications strategy for CYFCC. Five new commission members will join CYFCC in December. The co-chairs also announced the solicitation of a chair for the Research & Data Committee. Councilman Chapman agreed to chair that committee.

Glenn Hopkins, chair of the Advocacy & Policy Committee, presented an updated version of the committee's work plan. One project is to explore the prospect of using the twitter system of the City and ACPS to inform the public about CYFCC activities. The City has consented to the request and the committee is in the process of reaching out to ACPS.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bill Campbell, Joyce Rawlings, Tammy Mann, former commissioner Cynthia Skinner, and Deborah Warren were appointed to the ACPS Strategic Planning Committee.

The Mayor's initiative on bullying has hosted two stakeholder meetings since the initial event in October. A messaging campaign targeting the business community is in development.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.